
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATION(S)

Submitted by: Commissioners Hicks / McIntyre / Upton

Finding: There is a need for a Basin wide organization that is suitably financed and organized to assist in the implementation of Community Wildfire Prevention Plans ("CWPPs"), defensible space and other pre-fire prevention programs, single source information services, and public education regarding fire safety practices.

Background and Supporting Evidence: Various agencies, governmental authorities, private, and quasi-public organizations have long recognized the risks of fire within the Tahoe Basin and have attempted to convey messages about fire safety practices to the public. In many cases, these efforts, although well intended, have resulted in multiple and sometimes confusing messages to the public about fire safety matters. The local fire jurisdictions within the Basin have generally acted on their own to pursue implementation of CWPPs and defensible space concepts within their respective districts. While a Multi-Agency Coordination Group (the "MAC") has been formed to oversee implementation of the 10 Year Multi-Jurisdiction Plan, there is no entity in the Basin that is expressly dedicated and funded to implement the 10 Year Plan, to provide information and education to the public, or to create and operate single source information services regarding fire safety matters and related services within the Basin.

Fire safe councils have been created in many areas to provide such services, and have been very helpful in assisting property owners and communities in obtaining funding for fuels removal projects, the operation of public outreach and education programs, and assistance in the coordination and implementation of CWPPs and other fire safety projects.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that a Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council be formed to represent all areas within the Tahoe Basin, and that the various fire agencies within the Tahoe Basin enter into a Basin Joint Powers Agreement with the Tahoe Basin Fire Safe Council in order to provide an administrative structure for fire safety matters throughout the Basin.
2. It is recommended that representatives of the Nevada Fire Safe Council and the Tahoe Basin Fire Chiefs review all possible funding sources for such an organization and take such steps as necessary to establish it, and work up a proposed budget for any funding needed from the States to California and Nevada and submit it to the Governors of the two States quickly as possible so that the initial funding of the organization may be assembled during the current year if possible.
3. It is recommended that the States of California and Nevada fund this organization for a period of 3 years during its start-up phase, in order to support it while it establishes permanent funding sources.

Impacts of Implementation: *(The implementation of any Recommendation is likely to have specific impacts. Consider potential consequences related to each of the following areas):*

Analysis of impacts on the following factors is REQUIRED (Best Estimate):

- ☐ Cost / The cost of creation and temporary funding of such an organization is unknown at this time. Budgets should be prepared as quickly as possible.
- ☐ Funding source / To be determined. Short term funding should come from the two States, to the extent necessary.
- ☐ Staffing / To be determined

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- ☐ Existing regulations and/or laws / This organization can be formed without any changes to existing laws or regulations

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Analysis of impacts on the following factors is OPTIONAL:

- ☐ Operational
- ☐ Social
- ☐ Political
- ☐ Policy
- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Environmental
- ☐ Interagency

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